NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Four-Point Program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

1. School Education
2. Health
3. World Understanding
4. Parent and Family Life Education

ATTENTION, P.T.A. LEADERS AND MEMBERS!

THE National Congress of Parents and Teachers looks forward to the year ahead as a period of great challenge as well as of great promise. Leaders at all levels of our organization are alert to act clearly and decisively so that parent-teacher projects may function purposefully and dynamically.

We have embarked on a FOUR-POINT PROGRAM. Each point has its origin in our fundamental Objects and purposes, and all together they span the larger part of parent-teacher work. Viewed in the light of present-day needs and problems, the FOUR-POINT PROGRAM climaxes our thinking and permits us to concentrate our energies to new and better advantage. Here, then, are the OBJECTIVES we shall strive to attain; here is our blueprint for action. As one of the most constructive forces in American life, we are obligated to achieve these goals. Nothing less than our best efforts will be good enough.

[OVER]

Four-Point Program Continued . . .

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1 School Education

This is a time to face realities. The great inequalities of educational opportunity have long made it obvious that only Federal aid to states on a basis of need can bring about anything like true equalization. Inadequate teacher salaries, depletion of school budgets, overcrowded classrooms—these have brought about a crisis that must be combated with every resource at our command. To do otherwise is to denounce our belief in this nation's great system of free public schools and to deny our children the untold blessings of education.

1. Strengthen community support of local and state legislation to obtain adequate funds for public schools and equalize educational opportunities within the state; and unite all forces to pass current legislation providing Federal aid to the states on the basis of need.

2. Secure community support for establishing a local teachers' salary schedule beginning with at least $2,400 a year for four-year college graduates with full professional training and increasing each year thereafter to a level of $5,000–$6,000 for experienced, efficient teachers.

3. Work for the establishment of conditions that will make teaching more attractive to talented young people as a life career and that will retain qualified teachers in the schools; and conduct an active teacher-recruitment drive in the community, emphasizing the public service aspects as well as the professional advantages of teaching.

4. Encourage and give financial support to the elementary schools and high schools to modernize their programs, their equipment, and their facilities so that all children may have the best educational advantages; and advocate more active lay participation in school planning, thereby creating a more effective home-school partnership.

2 Health

The war showed us vividly enough the effects of our negligence in this department of life. Adequate health facilities are vital to the nation and must be set up speedily wherever they are lacking. Health cannot be slighted without disaster; if we are to have a generation of healthy minds they will have to be developed in healthy bodies.

1. Cooperate in every possible way with public health departments to intensify and expand present local health services and facilities and also to spread sound health information throughout the community.

2. Instill in students and parents an understanding of the modern changes that have taken place in the professions of nursing, dentistry, medicine, and other technical fields of health service; and point out to them the advantages of training for careers in the fields of health—not only to relieve personnel shortages but to gain personal satisfaction, economic and social security, and a sense of service to mankind.

3. Study and evaluate community provisions for maternal and infant care: prenatal clinics, hospital and nursing facilities, well-baby clinics, and the like; and, with the counsel of the local health officer or department, promote action to expand or augment whatever services are necessary to safeguard the physical and mental health of both children and adults.

4. Survey community provisions for the care and education of all exceptional children, including the physically handicapped, the mentally deficient, the emotionally troubled, and the gifted; work with appropriate agencies to give these children the special training they require to attain their best development; and act to secure necessary legislation to insure such provisions on a state-wide basis.

One hundred thousand reprints of this Four-Point Program announcement will be sent free to state congresses for immediate distribution through districts and councils. Congresses that have funds available will want to purchase many additional copies for further free distribution. Local associations wishing to buy enough copies to provide one for each member may obtain them from the National Office for 50 cents a hundred or $3.50 a thousand. It is of the *utmost importance* that this announcement be given immediate consideration by every local association and its members, for the need to undertake these objectives is urgent. Publicize this program in every possible way and through every available local channel.

. . . Four-Point Program Continued

3 World Understanding

This dare no longer be an empty phrase—not if our world is to survive. Ways must be found to give our children a world outlook and to instill in them the desire to strive for the common good. Certainly nothing on earth provides such a stimulus to our loftiest purposes as do the problems that face us in maintaining universal peace.

1. Demonstrate—by the way we act and the way we talk in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our P.T.A.'s—our honest belief in democratic ideals; and challenge others to pursue the same course.

2. Urge school officials to provide instructional materials and experiences that will teach American children to appreciate other nations and their contributions to our own culture—to the end that young people will truly learn the art of living well with their fellow men.

3. Stimulate every member of the community to participate fully in civic affairs and to assume responsibility for community betterment; sponsor community projects and activities that will give different nationality groups a better understanding of one another; and provide opportunities for them to analyze the causes of senseless fear, prejudice, and hate, and then devise ways of overcoming them.

4. Uphold the enduring power of the United Nations, particularly UNESCO, to lay the foundations of world-wide unity and peace; and organize study groups to discuss the structure and functions of the United Nations and its international agencies.

4 Parent and Family Life Education

Where home is a place in which a child finds security and wise direction, and in which the parents themselves find joy and satisfaction, there juvenile delinquency cannot take root. The firmest foundations of character and courage are laid in the home. This is a principle we must never forget or neglect.

1. Conduct much-needed lay-leadership training programs to supply leaders for parent-teacher study groups and use to better advantage the professional workers in the community who are available for consultation guidance.

2. Expand present parent education programs to include the organization of preschool sections; the sponsorship of nursery schools, day-care centers, preschools, and adult counseling agencies; and the active support of adequate housing and other improvements that raise the standards of family life.

3. Organize lively forums, institutes, and conferences that will bring specific action to bear on juvenile delinquency, divorce, and other disintegrating forces in modern family life; and promote better and wider use of *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*, which gives parents the knowledge and skill needed in the practice of the profession of parenthood.

4. Urge school officials, in both rural and urban areas, to introduce or extend courses of study in homemaking, family relationships, and personal growth for both boys and girls; and cooperate in planning group activities that will help build youth's feeling of self-respect.

THESE specific objectives were outlined by the Four-Point steering committee of the National Congress: Mrs. John E. Hayes, chairman; Mrs. Stanley G. Cook; Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins; Ralph McDonald; *G. L. Maxwell; G. F. Moench, M.D.; Ralph H. Ojemann; A. Pauline Sanders; and Agnes Samuelson.

The committee is working now on *action projects* to be undertaken in each of the four areas selected for major emphasis. A list of the projects will be released at an early date. In accordance with action at the recent meeting of the national Board of Managers, state congresses, state chairmen and other parent-teacher leaders at all levels will be given an opportunity to make a special contribution to this nation-wide program of service.

I am counting on the intelligence and will of every P.T.A. member to make this the most successful program ever undertaken by our organization.

MRS. L. W. HUGHES, *President*

* *Died January 3, 1947.*

ADVANCE PUBLICITY—FEBRUARY 1897!

ALICE McLELLAN BIRNEY

PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST

THE FOUNDERS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

• *The following is an exact copy of a column written on Feb. 5, 1897, by the Washington correspondent of the Atlanta* Constitution.

"THE first National Congress of Mothers will be convened at the Arlington Hotel, Washington, D.C., on February 17, next. As the time draws nearer, more rapidly are the thousand and one preliminaries approaching completion, and greater is the assurance that this will be a significant event in the history of American womanhood, than which none greater or more illustrious of like purpose has ever been held in the United States, or perhaps in the world. Men and women of national renown will figure in the addresses and discussions, and the fact that these persons are so well known to the people of the United States assures a meeting of wide influence.

"The idea of a national association comprising mothers' clubs in every populated corner of the country is by no means a new one, but it was left for Mrs. T. W. Birney to take the initial steps looking to its further consummation. At the mothers' session at Chautauqua during the summer of 1895, Mrs. Birney laid her project before the many conscientious and intellectual women present, and it at once met with hearty accord. Returning to Washington, Mrs. Birney made known the scope of her idea to intimate friends, and the following summer saw the first active move toward establishing the Mothers Congress. Mrs. Birney called upon Miss Emma Morton, the sister of Secretary of Agriculture and, presenting a clear outline of the project, soon interested her to the extent that Miss Morton volunteered to work hand in hand with the originator.

"A letter of introduction from this most recent and valuable recruit served to place Mrs. Birney in the confidence of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, widow of the late Senator Hearst, from California. The generosity of this most estimable lady is known probably to the entire newspaper-reading public of America. When Mrs. Birney began to unfold her theories, she immediately enlisted Mrs. Hearst's enthusiasm in the movement, and the latter accepted them and determined that they should be carried out. It was decided between the projectors that a number of prominent ladies, mothers, and others should be enlisted in the cause and a temporary organization effected without delay. A meeting was held at the handsome residence of Mrs. Hearst, on New Hampshire Avenue, and the following officers and committee chairmen elected:

"Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, president and chairman of the executive committee.

Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, first vice-president.

Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson, Mrs. John R. Lewis, of New York, and Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, of Philadelphia, vice-presidents.

Miss Mary Louisa Butler, of Chicago, corresponding secretary.

Miss Emma Morton, sister of Secretary Morton, treasurer.

Mrs. William L. Wilson, wife of the Postmaster General of the United States, chairman of the reception committee.

Mrs. H. W. Fuller, chairman of the transportation committee.

Mrs. Arthur A. Birney, wife of the attorney for the District of Columbia, chairman of the committee on arrangements.

Mrs. James H. McGill, chairman of the committee on entertainment.

Mrs. Harriet A. McLellan, chairman of the literature committee.

Mrs. Henry J. Finley, of Washington, chairman of the press committee.

"OTHER prominent ladies who expressed themselves as in sympathy with the proposed National Association of Mothers, and who will personally act in the capacity of sponsors on the occasion of its first annual convention, are Mrs. John G. Carlisle, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury; Mrs. Daniel Lamont, wife of the Secretary of War; Miss Herbert, daughter of the Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. Judson Harmon, wife of the Attorney General of the United States; Mrs. Ella Herbert Micou, daughter of the Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. Mary W. Kincaid, of San Francisco; Miss Frances E. Willard, president of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union; Mrs. W. F. Crafts, president of the International Primary Sunday School Union; Miss Frances Newton, superintendent of kindergarten work, Chautauqua, N.Y.; Miss Amalie Hofer, editor of *The Kindergarten Magazine*, Chicago; Mrs. Ellen Henrotin, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of America; Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson, president of the National Council of Women; Mrs. Emma J. Masters, Lewiston, Illinois; and Miss Janet Richards, of Washington, D.C.

"Having organized, the next step was to disseminate the movement. Mrs. Hearst at once appropriated a snug sum sufficiently large to defray all preliminary expenses, and the heads of the several committees actively entered upon the duties. A plan of state organization was outlined, the date of the first National Congress was decided upon, and descriptive circulars were sent throughout the land from Maine to California, with a view to having mothers' clubs organized in cities and townships. Mrs. Birney, who resides at Chevy Chase, inaugurated the work of organization in the city by interesting the wives of the conductors on the cars of the route between Washington and that suburban resort. The women took hold of the movement with a vim that encouraged the prime mover, and soon the first club was formed.

"MRS. Hearst corresponded with Mrs. Mary W. Kincaid, of San Francisco, a bosom friend, who at once fell in with the project and organized several mothers' clubs in her own city. So manifestly strong was the interest aroused among mothers and unmarried women in almost every state that the officers of the Congress realized before the last autumn that success would crown their efforts.

"In the early part of December nine women of national renown left Washington to interest feminine New York in the already famous event which was sure to be the greatest gathering in the history of the women of America. Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Hearst received at an informal reception at the Hotel Waldorf, assisted by Mrs. Adlai Stevenson, Mrs. William L. Wilson, Miss Morton, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. A. A. Birney, and Miss Richards. The two following evenings these ladies held informal receptions and enlisted the sympathies of scores of New York representative women.

"On their return to Washington the ladies established headquarters on Twentieth Street, Northwest, with Miss Butler, the Corresponding Secretary, in charge."

* * *

• *From the* Evening Star, *Washington, February 13, 1897:*

"THE Congress is not for mothers alone, but for fathers and sons and uncles, and the rest of mankind who are broadminded and progressive. They will all go away filled with new ideas, too. The leaders in the movement think that there are many evidences that men are particularly interested in the Congress. From far away San Francisco there comes a delegate in the person of a young man who has just graduated from the State University. He is sent as the representative of the Mothers' Club of San Francisco, and is represented as being deeply interested in the problems that this Congress is going to begin solving.

"Then away off up in St. Paul there is an old veteran who takes the keenest interest in the forthcoming Congress. He wrote that he was not able to be present, but wished them Godspeed and sent to each one of the officers a tiny flag, with the name of each written across the end.

"Each day there will be conferences and private talks on various subjects that will suggest themselves during the Congress. These will be led by various well-known people. The first will occur on Thursday morning when Dr. Clara Bliss Finley will lead a conference on emergency treatment. During the Congress one of the conferences will be on the subject of 'Fear,' and this will be handled by the Woman's Anthropological Society. Another paper which it is thought will be exceptionally fine, is on the 'Emancipation of Women,' which will be presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Lange Aus, delegate to the Congress from Norway. Every provision is being made for the comfort of guests. For two days before the opening of the Congress men will be stationed at the depots to watch for the incoming delegates and direct them to their stopping places, nearly all having been provided for in advance. Large placards are hung around everywhere with simple directions for the benefit of strangers and everything has been done that can be suggested to make the stay of the delegates in the city pleasant."

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GOLDEN JUBILEE HONOR ROLL

National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine

• Seven congresses are now on the Golden Jubilee Honor Roll! The state branches listed below have already equaled or surpassed their magazine subscription records for the preceding campaign year. In other words during the past *eight months* these states have sent in more subscriptions* than during the *entire twelve months* of last year:

	Subscriptions forwarded for year ending March 31, 1946	Subscriptions forwarded from April 1 through November 30, 1946	GAIN
1. **MISSISSIPPI**	1,397	1,729	332
2. **ALABAMA**	3,838	4,123	285
3. **LOUISIANA**	1,173	1,303	130
4. **HAWAII**	43	111	68
5. **NEVADA**	212	246	34
6. **IOWA**	3,794	3,826	32
7. **ARIZONA**	688	697	9

How many more subscriptions does your state need in order to earn a place on the Golden Jubilee Honor Roll? As each state achieves Honor Roll credit, it will be added to this list.

* The figures used are those for April 1, 1945, through March 31, 1946, compared to the totals of April 1, 1946, through November 30, 1946.

INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN JUBILEE BROADCAST!

On February 17, 1947, the National Congress, in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company, will broadcast a special international Founders Day program from Marietta, Georgia, the birthplace of Alice McLellan Birney. Be sure to listen in. Watch the radio page of your local paper for the hour of the broadcast. The program will come to you over your NBC station and will be transmitted to other countries by short wave. Invite your neighbors to listen with you to this special P.T.A. anniversary feature.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE BAXTERS EVERY WEEK?

Are you one of the 3,000,000 persons who listen each Saturday to our national P.T.A. radio program? If not, this is a cordial invitation to you to tune in next Saturday. The program will come to you over your NBC station at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Refer to your local newspaper for local broadcast time. Let us know how you like the program.

Dear Local Presidents:

[A FOUNDERS DAY REPORT]

Mrs. L. W. Hughes

ON THE seventeenth day of February we shall have completed our fiftieth year of service as an organization widely known and respected in America. And on our fiftieth birthday we can surely pause not only to praise our predecessors but to recall with pride our own accomplishments as well.

On this Founders Day it is especially fitting that we look to the future as well as to the past. In terms of what has already been done, let us ask ourselves what there is yet to do. To begin with, there are many people who do not know the purposes of the P.T.A. And there are still others who must be taught more about the way in which those purposes are achieved.

From time to time I hear comments—usually from persons not familiar with the work of our organization—implying that our local associations are not doing as good a job as they should. In an organization as vast as ours—one whose membership is a cross section of the American people—it would of course be quite foolish to expect that our 27,000 units would have equal attainments. Human nature being what it is, there are bound to be certain shortcomings in leadership, certain mistakes in judgment, certain failures among chosen projects. Yet imperfections here and there do not and cannot alter the *excellent over-all picture* of parent-teacher achievements to which we can point with justifiable pride.

Because our organization does not concentrate its energies upon self-glorification, we shall no doubt always receive some criticism from the uninformed. Perhaps there are times when we should not be *quite* so modest! Without ostentation we might well embark on a dignified campaign to acquaint the public with the many, many worth-while activities of P.T.A.'s in communities all over America. Let us review together a few of our contributions to the welfare of children and young people in the past fifty years. In this way we may be helped to tell the parent-teacher story to those who have not heard it.

On Behalf of the Schools. Few schools having Congress P.T.A.'s lack concrete evidence of members' interest in the comfort and convenience of those who use the school plant—pupils, teachers, administrators, and adults of the community. Local units have helped to supply motion picture projectors, sanitary equipment, recreation facilities—even clothing and school supplies for underprivileged school children. But this is only one short chapter in our ambitious tale.

Recently many magazines and newspapers have given publicity to the teacher shortage as well as other timely problems of education. To some it may seem that America is just beginning to wake up—but *who started the awakening?* For years the National Congress has worked to secure legislation on behalf of the schools, to increase teachers' salaries, to keep professional standards high, to improve the status of the teacher *as a person* in the community, to retain for the benefit of children the lands granted by the Federal government to the various states. (See the February issue for an account of what the Washington Congress recently did to protect state school lands. Watch, too, for the "P.T.A. Frontiers" article in the February 1947 issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*, describing how our Oregon state branch secured passage of the Basic School Support Fund bill in that state.)

We have not *merely talked* about these things; we have helped to translate them into reality. Genuinely concerned about the teacher shortage, many state congresses have taken steps to improve present critical conditions. The California Congress, for example, has done an outstanding piece of work in encouraging high-caliber students to enter the teaching profession (see the October 1945 *National Parent-Teacher*). First establishing a scholarship fund of $50,000 to be used for the education of teachers, California augmented the fund by $30,000 this year. Illinois and Massachusetts have sizable scholarship funds, and Connecticut and Pennsylvania also offer aid to selected students in teacher training colleges. The Georgia Congress is supporting a bill to increase teachers' salaries. Hawaii is striving to improve the standards of teaching. And Idaho is working on legislation to provide a teacher retirement system. So we could go on, naming state after state. Indeed, it is difficult to cite a single congress that is *not* working in one way or another to improve our public schools!

Concerning Parent and Family Life Education. Parent education, long one of our main concerns, is so deeply ingrained in the whole pattern of parent-teacher work that it seems to permeate every project. Each year thousands of local associations, both urban and rural, foster the development of an enlightened American parenthood. It might even be said without exaggeration that one can scarcely retain parent-teacher membership without receiving *some* form of liberal education!

Our Congress publications, particularly the *National Parent-Teacher* with its eminent study courses, bring to parent-teacher readers material tailor-made to their requirements. Published study courses, I might add, are no new or untried venture for us. As early as 1924 the *Child-Welfare Magazine*, ancestor of our present publication, carried a series of home study courses in cooperation with Columbia University. That same year the Congress adopted the Children's Foundation study course, "The Child: His Nature and His Needs," as the basis for a series of twelve outlines, which were published each month beginning in January 1925.

Clearly can we see a consistent thread of parent education throughout our early history. Today there is scarcely a single authority in the range of parent-teacher interest who has not contributed to these courses. Nor is there one who fails to acknowledge the value of such study to the country at large.

Incidentally, since we mention the *National Parent-Teacher*, may I say that the publication of a magazine of such excellence—one that is read by more than 300,000 persons monthly—is in itself an achievement worthy of note. *Especially* is this true when one realizes that the magazine is promoted wholly by volunteer parent-teacher workers and supported on a one-dollar subscription rate, entirely without advertising.

The monthly meetings of each P.T.A. are themselves a forceful means of deepening our understanding of the needs of youth. But the parent-teacher movement is far more than a once-a-month event! The activities of each local association go on continuously by means of committee meetings, participation in local projects, and smaller study groups that meet to discuss parents' problems, current ideas on child

(Continued on page 7)

growth, and various matters of civic, national, or international interest.

Then there are the special conferences and institutes, the short courses at colleges and universities, and our weekly radio broadcast, *The Baxters*. All these give to parent-teacher members a definite personal enrichment, which is in turn reflected in their deeper responsibility as citizens of a democracy.

For the Greatest Good. The parent-teacher organization supports those objectives—national and international—that are for the best interests of the nation and its children. Working in cooperation with other civic groups, it has supported tax measures that have raised school standards in countless districts. Parent-teacher leaders are in the foreground of campaigns for protective child labor laws, for maternal welfare legislation, for Federal aid to the schools, for housing statutes, and for innumerable other tangible goals directed toward the betterment of the family.

> Although this support is centralized at the national level, its strength comes directly from the 3,910,106 local members who actively exercise their rights as citizens. The very existence of an organized parent-teacher association in any community tends to restrain those who might be likely to exploit children or their parents. There is really no way of knowing fully how much insecurity or how many hardships have been averted because our P.T.A.'s have striven consistently for the greatest good of all.

Then think for a moment of what we have done to foster world understanding—to educate the public about the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, the San Francisco Conference, the United Nations organization, and UNESCO. But remember, too, that our job is far from done, that we must continue to strive for an enduring peace. A better world tomorrow depends upon the parents and teachers of today. Only if they are well informed and earnest will they be able to pursue a course of action that will ensure the building of a peaceful and prosperous world for all mankind.

Stressing Safety. In this field it is also interesting to speculate on how many lives we have saved, how many accidents we have prevented. We *know* they are legion, for safety has long been prominent in our program. At parent-teacher insistence, school safety patrols have been organized, safety ordinances enforced, school bus regulations improved, school courses in safety urged. Though the list is too long to be completed here, we can be absolutely sure that we have made America a safer nation in which to rear our children.

Regarding Health. One of our best known health projects is of course the Summer Round-Up of the Children, but often even its story goes unheralded, although the idea has been taken over by many state health departments. Through the efforts of our P.T.A.'s in the last twenty years 1,748,227 preschool children have had a medical checkup before entering first grade. We cannot say exactly how many of the defects discovered by these examinations might have gone undetected for years, or how many children might have been retarded in school because of poor eyesight or hearing handicaps. But again we know that if such statistics could have been gathered together, the health debt owed by the nation to our Congress parent-teacher associations would truly be tremendous.

> Realizing the importance of diet to health, our P.T.A.'s were the first groups in America to sponsor school lunches that would give pupils the benefits of a hot meal during the noon hour at school. From one section of the country to the other, parent-teacher members once more did not merely *talk* about the need for school lunches; they rolled up their sleeves, donned their aprons, and went to work helping to prepare and serve the food.

Soon other local, state, and Federal agencies entered the picture until today millions of children are receiving school lunches daily. Now in many communities the P.T.A. may give only indirect aid to the school lunch project, because that is all that is needed. Nevertheless in the beginning it was our interest and our example that gave impetus to what is now an accepted feature of the nation's schools. Moreover we still lend practical assistance to other phases of school lunch support. The Federal school lunch bill was passed last year largely because parent-teacher members worked so diligently for its enactment. And every harvest season still finds many a local unit canning jars of foods for school lunches. In ten states, for instance, our associations last year planted and cultivated 2,141 gardens, processed 921,731 units of food, and contributed 225,000 hours of volunteer work! Who, we wonder, can possibly say we are not doing enough?

Pointing Toward Publicity. We could go on at length talking of the many ways in which our 27,000 P.T.A.'s are making social and civic history. Any organization that has attracted to its ranks nearly 4,000,000 men and women from all walks of life must surely have vitality, integrity, and a program of work commanding attention and respect.

As your elected leader, I propose, with the help of the Board of Managers, to make our past and present achievements more widely known, not only to our membership but to the public in general. As our plans for such publicity materialize, they will be made known. Meanwhile you who are in closest touch with the community can acquaint your friends and neighbors with the worth of what we are doing. Enlist the support of your local newspapers and radio stations in publicizing P.T.A. projects. And don't forget to keep your state and national officers informed! They can then see that your accounts find their way into other channels of public information.

On this Founders Day of 1947 may we remember that so long as there are children there will be parents and teachers in the National Congress seeking for them the utmost of care and the wisest of guidance. With unwavering confidence let us now continue steadfastly along the course so ably charted for us fifty years ago.

Sincerely yours,

Mabel W. Hughes

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

IN MEMORIAM

All who knew G. L. Maxwell, our national treasurer, were grievously shocked to learn of his death on January 3 resulting from cerebral hemorrhage.

Dean of administration at the University of Denver, Mr. Maxwell was widely known as an educator and writer. An associate editor of the *National Parent-Teacher*, he directed the monthly feature "What's Happening in Education?" until recently, when it became necessary for him to conserve his energies. Last May he was elected treasurer of the National Congress, and in the few ensuing months had already made a notable contribution in this office.

Mr. Maxwell was the author of many educational articles dealing with problems of interest to parents and teachers alike. Among his published books are *Learning the Ways of Democracy* and *Education for All American Youth.*

In whatever way he served Dean Maxwell completely justified the confidence reposed in his ability. His death is a deep personal and professional loss to the National Board and to his parent-teacher friends everywhere.

Highlights OF THE MONTH

In the January issue of
NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER:
THE P.T.A. MAGAZINE

Why the Upswing in Divorce?

by Ernest W. Burgess

• If you think the divorce rates in America have increased only because of the recent war, you'll want to learn what Dr. Burgess, a renowned sociologist, has to say about a problem that demands earnest thought and remedial action.

What Are Children Afraid Of?

by Evelyn Beyer

• To know what children are afraid of is a start toward knowing how to help them to be unafraid. In this article a competent nursery school supervisor, who is well acquainted with childhood fears, offers suggestions to adults on just how they can assist their children in conquering fear.

Homes or Hovels?

by the Right Reverend Monsignor John O'Grady

• Those who argue against public housing should read Msgr. O'Grady's convincing arguments in favor of Federal aid to the housing problem. Because the National Congress supports the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill (the general housing bill of 1945), every parent-teacher member will want to read this article, which forcibly presents the advantages to be derived from its passage.

The Health of the Nation

by Thomas Parran, M.D.

• "America today is not the world's healthiest nation," declares Dr. Parran, Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, in a revealing discussion which recommends five steps toward guaranteeing to every citizen an equal opportunity for health.

How To Think About Yourself V. *You Are a Set of Habits*

by Bonaro W. Overstreet

• Which of our habits are valuable? And which of them make us slaves? In another of her uniquely satisfying articles, Mrs. Overstreet asks us to think wisely about ourselves so that we may "keep our minds and spirits free and adventurous."

What We Should Know About Cerebral Palsy

by R. E. Bruner, M.D.

• This article by a specialist in the field of cerebral palsy seeks to correct some mistaken ideas about this type of handicap. Moreover, it points out our obligations to these afflicted but sometimes able youngsters, who have too often been neglected in the past.

A Council Takes Action on Juvenile Protection

The Bay County Council of P.T.A.'s in the Michigan Congress recently took stock of its year of work in the field of juvenile protection, and the results were good indeed.

Mrs. Joseph Slezak, former council president, writes that the council first made a survey of juvenile delinquency problems and decided what available services and programs might prevent any further waywardness among the young people of that part of the state. Because the council did not include P.T.A.'s in all communities in the county, a questionnaire was sent to citizenship classes in every school, asking the students such questions as these:

1. **What do you do for fun at home?**
2. **How often do you go places with your parents? Where do you enjoy going with them?**
3. **What do you read for pleasure?**
4. **What are your favorite radio programs?**
5. **What organized groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Club, church organizations, and so on) have you joined? Do you take an active part?**
6. **Who in your community would you like as a young people's leader?**

Centered on the goal of reducing juvenile delinquency, the council program for the year was built on the answers to this questionnaire. The first meeting of the season was devoted to a panel discussion on "What Can We Do in Bay County To Combat Juvenile Delinquency?" It included as participants a minister, a probate judge, a child welfare agent, a county health nurse, a parent, and a teacher. Out of this meeting came the following decisions:

1. ***To ask the board of supervisors to appropriate enough money for a trained child guidance worker who would seek to correct widespread truancy as well as other phases of delinquency.***
2. ***To urge that more parent education study groups be organized in the local associations, and that they stress the study of mental hygiene.***
3. ***To encourage the forming of more youth-serving organizations and the sponsoring of wholesome recreational events.***

Accordingly, a child guidance counselor was hired and throughout the year all efforts were directed toward achieving the outlined goals. And the rewards were most gratifying. The county school commissioner, the county health nurse, the county child welfare worker, to say nothing of parents and teachers, all agreed that when a parent-teacher group really goes to work on juvenile problems, delinquency *can* be reduced.

RESERVATIONS FOR GOLDEN JUBILEE CONVENTION

June 2, 3, and 4, 1947

THE Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, will be the official headquarters hotel for the 1947 convention. Those who plan to attend should be certain they have a place to stay before coming to Chicago for this annual meeting of the Congress.

All visitors and delegates, with the exception of the members of the Board of Managers, should write directly to the Stevens Hotel for room reservations. Double rooms with twin beds, double rooms with double beds, and dormitory style rooms with four to six beds are available. Very few, if any, single rooms can be had.*

The Stevens will not assume responsibility for selecting roommates for persons attending the convention. Therefore when you make a reservation it is *most important* that you give your own name and address and the names and addresses of the persons who will room with you. State definitely the day and hour you and your party will arrive as well as the day and hour you expect to leave.

Allow at least three weeks for confirmation of your reservation. The Stevens may not be able to accommodate all persons planning to attend the convention, but it has made arrangements with other hotels to take care of an overflow. When you request reservations be sure to state that you are attending the Golden Jubilee convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Otherwise, the hotel *will not accept* your reservations for the period indicated.

* Because of problems affecting all hotels in the Chicago area, room rates cannot be announced until April 1, 1947.